Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A plastic surface printing method comprising:

providing a metallic hot-stamping tool with a plastic-coated outer stamping surface

using a heating device, preheating a work piece surface to be printed; and

using the stamping surface to press a carrier foil against a surface of the work piece such that a pigment layer is transferred from the carrier foil onto the work piece

wherein the work piece surface to be printed is preheated to a temperature between 80°C and 120°C; and

wherein the stamping surface is heated to a temperature of between 140°C and 240°C.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein preheating the work piece surface comprises adapting a heating power of the heating device in response to a texture of the surface to be printed.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein adapting the heating power comprises:

sensing the texture of the surface to be printed by means of a sensor; and

forwarding data indicative of the sensed texture to an evaluation device that subsequently adjusts the heating power of the heating device.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein preheating the work piece surface comprises locally heating the work piece surface to be printed, by means of an infrared lamp or a fan heater.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the preheated work piece surface comprises a surface of a plastic toothbrush.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the toothbrush surface consists of a thermoplastic plastic.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the sensor comprises ~~texture is sensed by~~ a pyrometer.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hot-stamping tool is coated with a silicon layer.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the silicone layer has a thickness between 1 and 4 mm.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the silicone layer has a thickness between 2 and 3 mm.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the stamping surface is preheated to a temperature between 200°C and 220°C.

14. (Currently amended) A plastic surface printing method, the method comprising:

providing a metallic hot-stamping tool with a plastic-coated outer surface that forms a stamping surface;

preheating a work piece surface to be printed to a temperature between 80°C and 120°C;

heating the stamping surface to a temperature between 140°C and 240°C; and

using the heated stamping surface to press a carrier foil against a surface of the preheated work piece such that a pigment layer is transferred from the carrier foil onto the work piece.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein preheating the work piece surface comprises adapting a heating power of a work piece surface heater in response to a sensed texture of the work piece surface.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 15, wherein adapting the heating power comprises:

sensing the texture and temperature of the surface by means of a sensor that comprises a pyrometer;

forwarding sensor data from the pyrometer to an evaluation device; and

by the evaluation device, subsequently adjusting the heating power of the heater.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein preheating the work piece surface comprises locally heating the work piece surface using an infrared lamp.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the hot-stamping tool is coated with a silicon layer that has a thickness between 2 and 3 mm.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, comprising heating the stamping surface to a temperature between 200°C and 220°C.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet including this figure.

As this application only includes one figure, the identifier "FIG, 1" has been deleted from the figure.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 pages)
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (1 pages)